

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The air intake system according to claim 19 8, wherein a base bracket is mounted to an underside of said air cleaner, a support bracket is mounted on an upper portion of said side plate, and said base bracket is mounted on said support bracket, whereby said air cleaner is supported above said expansion silencer.

Claims 10-16 (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A forklift equipped with the air intake system according to claim 19 8.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A forklift equipped with the air intake system according to claim 9.

Claim 19 (New) An air intake system for supplying air to an engine of a forklift, comprising:
a tower provided on a top surface of a body frame, said tower having an interior space;
a pillar mounted on said tower, said pillar having an interior passageway;
an air intake port provided in said pillar, said air intake port communicating with said passageway, and said passageway and said interior space of said tower being connected together;
an expansion silencer connected to said interior space of said tower; and
an air cleaner connected to said expansion silencer;
wherein a working oil tank is provided in a side portion of said body frame, a top surface of said working oil tank being lower in height than an upper end of a side plate forming a sidewall of said working oil tank, whereby a space is formed above said top surface of said working oil tank, and said expansion silencer is provided in said space.

Claim 20 (New) An air intake system for supplying air to an engine of a forklift, comprising:
a rear tower provided on a top surface of a body frame, said rear tower having an interior space;
a rear pillar mounted on said rear tower, said rear pillar having an interior passageway;
an air intake port provided in said rear pillar, said air intake port communicating with said passageway, and said passageway and said interior space of said rear tower being connected together;
an expansion silencer connected to said interior space of said rear tower by an air inlet formed in a rear surface of said expansion silencer being directly connected to an air outlet formed in a front surface of said rear tower; and
an air cleaner connected to said expansion silencer by an air outlet in a top surface of said expansion silencer being directly connected to a downwardly directed air inlet of said air cleaner, said air cleaner being placed directly above said expansion silencer.

Claim 21 (New) The air intake system of claim 20, wherein a resonance silencer is connected to said expansion silencer, said resonance silencer comprising a cylinder formed in said expansion silencer and a case detachably mounted on said expansion silencer.

Claim 22 (New) The air intake system of claim 20, wherein said space of said rear tower is an expansion space.

Claim 23 (New) The air intake system of claim 20, wherein a resonance chamber is provided within said expansion silencer, a resonance silencer comprising said resonance chamber being divided to have a cylinder formed in said expansion silencer and a case that can be detachably mounted on said expansion silencer and replaced with a lid on an opening of said cylinder when said resonance silencer is not necessary.

Claim 24 (New) The air intake system of claim 20, wherein said expansion silencer is made of resin.

Claim 25 (New) The air intake system of claim 20, wherein a reinforcement rib is formed on an outer peripheral surface of said expansion silencer.

Claim 26 (New) A forklift equipped with the air intake system according to claim 20.

Claim 27 (New) A forklift equipped with the air intake system according to claim 21.

Claim 28 (New) A forklift equipped with the air intake system according to claim 22.

Claim 29 (New) A forklift equipped with the air intake system according to claim 23.

Claim 30 (New) A forklift equipped with the air intake system according to claim 24.

Claim 31 (New) A forklift equipped with the air intake system according to claim 25.

Claim 32 (New) An air intake system for supplying air to an engine of a forklift, comprising:
a tower provided on a top surface of a body frame, said tower having an interior space;
a pillar mounted on a side of said tower, said pillar having an interior passageway;
an air intake port provided in said pillar, said air intake port communicating with said passageway;
a connection port provided at a lower end of said pillar communicating with a connection port of said tower to communicate said passageway with said interior space of said tower;
an expansion silencer connected to said interior space of said tower; and
an air cleaner connected to said expansion silencer;
wherein said interior space of said tower has a greater cross sectional area than said passageway as seen on a cross section taken perpendicularly to a vertical axis.